

Eli Lilly Reception, June 16, 2011

I am honored to be here among such distinguished guests:

Deputy Minister Fronczak, Minister Balicki, Members of Parliament, and prominent experts in various fields of science and medicine.

To Roberto and his team at Eli Lilly, thank you for throwing this wonderful event and congratulations on 135 years of innovative medicine.

I am pleased with the ongoing and growing cooperation between Poland and the United States in the area of health care. American healthcare companies have been present in Poland for over 30 years; including Eli Lilly, which has operated in Poland for 34.

When President Obama was in Poland last month, an important topic of his discussions with President Komorowski and Prime Minister Tusk was deeper connections between the U.S. and Poland in R&D cooperation:

- Prime Minister Tusk proposed the "Innovation Fund" exactly to build those links between government and academic researchers.
- U.S.-Poland Business Roundtable will look at ways to encourage stronger private sector research links. I am hopeful that the pharmaceutical sector can help guide that discussion.

Poland has grown to become the largest clinical trials market in Central Europe for American Innovative Pharmaceutical

companies and shows potential for even further growth. All in, the clinical trials market:

- contributes PLN 860 million to the Polish economy;
- provide more access to advanced therapies for Polish patients;
- provide a better standard of medical care; and
- contributes to human capital growth in terms of technique sharing and professional development opportunities for Polish medical professionals.

These benefits are just a few examples of how innovative pharmaceutical companies create a win-win outcome for U.S. business and for the health and wealth of Polish society.

Presence of representatives of the Polish government and Parliament here is an encouraging sign of renewed dialogue that can improve treatment opportunities and healthcare for the citizens of Poland, all while reducing costs.

I want to thank Minister Fronczak in particular, who already in his recent appointment, has made important and significant efforts in improving the discussion between the Ministry of Health and international counterparts, as well as industry.

Deputy Minister Fronczak was the key official who walked back the Ministry's proposal to slash the reimbursement rate for AmGen's flagship product in Poland, Neulasta (an oncology drug) by 34%. The result would have been a \$30 million annual loss for AmGen and its possible withdrawal from the PL market. AmGen was pleased with the ultimate result: a 5% reduction consistent with other drugs in its class.

Minister Fronczak hosted the first productive meeting between the USG and the Health Ministry in years during Commerce DAS Juan Verde's visit in the spring. That same day, Minister Fronczak met with a pharmaceutical industry group.